



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 September 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Transportation Security Administration has announced the expansion of the National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program to 10 mass transit and commuter rail systems. (See item [10](#))
- The San Francisco Chronicle reports at the University of California, Davis Medical Center, doctors and bird veterinarians have outlined efforts under way in California to monitor the dangerous bird flu H5N1 strain, with the focus on Alaska as an entry into the U.S. (See item [24](#))
- The Government Accountability Office has released testimony: GAO-05-1053T: Hurricane Katrina: Providing Oversight of the Nation's Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities. (See item [27](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 28, Energy Information Administration* — **Energy Information Administration weekly report on petroleum inventories.** The U.S. crude oil refinery inputs averaged over 14.6 million barrels per day during the week ending September 23, down 709,000 barrels per

day from the previous week's average, since many Gulf Coast refiners shut down late last week as a precaution before Hurricane Rita. Refineries operated at 86.7 percent of their operable capacity last week (capacity temporarily lost is not subtracted from operable capacity). Gasoline and distillate fuel production declined, averaging nearly 8.6 million barrels per day and 3.7 million barrels per day, respectively.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report:

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/current/txt/wpsr.txt](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/current/txt/wpsr.txt)

Source: [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/special/eia1\\_katrina.html](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/special/eia1_katrina.html)

2. *September 28, Dallas Morning News* — **Winter gas bills could rise 50 percent.** Texans should expect to pay about 50 percent more to heat their homes this winter than last year, industry executives told the Railroad Commission of Texas on Tuesday, September 27. That would put the average North Texas home's natural gas bill at about \$218 in January, compared with \$145 last year. The commission and the Energy Reliability Council of Texas heard from the three largest gas utilities in Texas, as well as other experts, who agreed that bills would be much higher with natural gas trading at record levels. The rising prices can be blamed on demand, which is rising faster than supplies can keep up, the executives said. The recent hurricanes constricted natural gas production at a time when utilities are usually storing up for the winter. On Tuesday, about three-quarters of Gulf Coast production remained halted. Electric bills also are expected to rise, since about half of the state's electricity is generated with natural gas. The utilities will launch campaigns to urge customers to conserve energy by turning thermostats down this winter and making their houses more energy-efficient.

Natural Gas Supply Association Report: Expected Increase in Winter Demand to Further Stretch Natural Gas Supply; Conservation Precautions Urged in Wake of Hurricane Unknowns:

<http://www.ngsa.org/>

Source: [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/DN-railroad\\_28bus.ART0.State.Edition2.12a4c8cb.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/DN-railroad_28bus.ART0.State.Edition2.12a4c8cb.html)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

3. *September 28, Fine Extra* — **Security brokerage firm probes identity theft poison pen campaign.** RBC Dain Rauscher, the U.S. securities brokerage arm of Royal Bank of Canada, has launched an investigation after some of its clients received anonymous letters — purporting

to be from a former employee — stating that their personal data had been stolen. Around 100 customers are believed to have received the letter, which reveals the author copied all the client information for thousands of accounts. The letter also says the author has sold the list of RBC Dain Rauscher's clients, and randomly posted the notice to a few clients as a warning to RBC Dain Rauscher. In a statement, RBC Dain Rauscher says it has notified all of its clients about the matter and has set up a 24 hour-a-day hotline to help clients affected by the situation. The company says it has begun an investigation in partnership with local and federal police and has hired an outside firm specializing in identity theft. The possible data theft is the latest in a number of high profile security breaches in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14315>

4. *September 27, SC Magazine* — **Federation of International Football Associations scam lures soccer fans.** The Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) has warned users to be wary of a phishing campaign aimed at taking advantage of money-hungry soccer fans. The official-looking emails claim to be from FIFA about a lottery program organized around the 2006 World Cup in Germany. The emails ask for personal details so that users can claim their prize. "FIFA is concerned because these lotteries claim to be organized on behalf of, or in association with, FIFA, the 2006 FIFA World Cup Local Organizing Committee or the 2010 Local Organizing Committee," the organization said in a statement. "FIFA confirms that these lotteries have no connection with or authorization from FIFA." South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom are being targeted by the email campaign but FIFA suspects their others arms may also be hit. Soccer's governing body has advised fans not to pass on any personal details to phishers.

FIFA Website: <http://www.fifa.com/default.html>

Source: <http://www.scmagazine.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=newsDetails&newsUID=86f4f811-5d3a-4db2-b479-53b4e451d9ae>

5. *September 27, E-Commerce Times* — **Federal Trade Commission launches aggressive campaign to educate online consumers.** Saying a consumer that is aware of online threats is essential to a strong U.S. economy, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched its most ambitious effort yet to educate Americans on the dangers lurking on the Web. The FTC joined with cybersecurity experts in government and the private sector consumer protection groups and online companies Tuesday, September 27, to launch an interactive campaign that leans heavily on the Web. The FTC said it had established a standalone Website, [onguardonline.gov](http://onguardonline.gov), where consumers can learn how to avoid online scams and buy online with confidence. The Web page features basic tutorials on topics such as spam, phishing attacks, spyware and secure shopping, with information presented in a number of formats. The site also includes links to forms for reporting possible fraud or attacks. The On Guard Website is not branded as part of the FTC, a deliberate move meant to make it easier for third parties to re-use the resource as part of their own efforts to educate consumers.

On Guard Website: <http://onguardonline.gov/index.html>

Source: <http://www.ecommercetimes.com/story/46373.html>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

6. *September 28, Associated Press* — **Northwest asks Pinnacle to park 15 leased jets.**

Northwest Airlines has told its Memphis-based regional carrier Pinnacle Airlines to ground 15 of the 139 small jets it leases from Northwest. The jets will be taken out of service October 31, Northwest announced Monday, in a move that could foreshadow the shrinkage or elimination of Northwest's Memphis hub. Northwest is trying to right itself in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Last week, Northwest told its other regional carrier, Mesaba, which is based in Eagan, MN, that it will be taking back 35 of its 69-seat regional jets. Northwest said Monday, September 26, it does not "anticipate any material change to its core hub structure," but it will be a smaller airline. The airline said its schedules are still under review and isn't detailing its long-range plans for Mesaba and Pinnacle. Mesaba and Pinnacle rely on Northwest for all or virtually all of their revenue. They have no planes of their own, leasing them from Northwest.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-27-nwa-pinnacle\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-27-nwa-pinnacle_x.htm)

7. *September 28, USA TODAY* — **TSA screeners' injury claims to be examined.** Contractors will review the medical records of injured airport baggage screeners to crack down on fraud and cut an injury rate that's among the highest in the nation. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has hired contractors who will push to get injured screeners back to work faster and "assist in identifying suspicious or fraudulent claims," according to a proposal by the agency. TSA employees had an injury rate last year four times as high as construction workers and seven times as high as miners. They missed nearly a quarter-million work days, which aggravated staffing shortages, caused them to miss training and violated a law requiring that luggage be screened with bomb-detection machines. Gil Harris, a screener at Buffalo Niagara International Airport and member of a local TSA safety committee, said he has seen screeners stay out of work for months, forcing checkpoint lanes to close because of insufficient staffing. "It's not that they weren't injured," he said. "But they carried it out to extremes where they go out for the whole summer." Since November, the TSA has run a test program of injury oversight at 39 airports. That has cut the average absence for screeners at those airports from 45 days to 11.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-27-tsa-screener-claims\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-27-tsa-screener-claims_x.htm)

8. *September 28, New York Times* — **Amtrak to move forward with a plan to raise fares.** After taking two weeks to reconsider a system-wide fare increase, Amtrak officials said on Tuesday, September 27, that they would go ahead with their plan but that a steep rise in the cost of monthly train passes would come in two stages instead of one. Amtrak said its ticket prices would rise five percent to seven percent on Tuesday for an average increase of about \$4 to cover rising costs. But a round-trip ticket from New York to Washington, DC, on a high-speed Acela train, which now costs \$314, will go up about \$22. In a more controversial move, Amtrak plans to sharply reduce the discount it offers to the thousands of Northeastern commuters who buy monthly passes and 10-trip tickets. Under that plan, the monthly tariff for some will increase \$150 to \$200 on October 16 and an equal amount in February. Amtrak had intended to implement those increases quietly this month, but the plan was sidetracked after an outcry from commuters and elected officials. Several members of Congress urged Amtrak's chief executive, David L. Gunn, to reconsider.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/28/nyregion/28amtrak.html?pagewanted=all>

9. *September 28, Government Computer News* — **Key Coast Guard database needs improved security: IG.** The Coast Guard does not have adequate database security controls for its Marine

Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) system, which contains sensitive but unclassified information for Coast Guard missions, according to a new report from the Department of Homeland Security inspector general Richard Skinner. MISLE is a Web-based database system used to track marine safety and law-enforcement activities involving commercial and recreational vessels. It contains information on Coast Guard waterway details, vessel and facility inspection information, and incident investigation. The Vessel Documentation System, which tracks vessel ownership, also is accessible to personnel using the MISLE. Although the Coast Guard has implemented many controls for the system, it has not established effective procedures for monitoring user access, nor has it developed an adequate IT contingency plan, the report said. The inspector general recommended the Coast Guard implement adequate controls and develop an IT contingency plan for the system, and apply corrective actions to all other databases as well. Coast Guard officials, in their response, agreed with most of the findings and recommendations.

Report: [http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIGr\\_05-35\\_Aug05.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIGr_05-35_Aug05.pdf)

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/37140-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/37140-1.html)

10. *September 28, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA expands explosives detection canine teams to mass transit and commuter rail systems.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on Wednesday, September 28, the expansion of the National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program to 10 mass transit and commuter rail systems. The 10 systems are: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation, Chicago Transit Authority, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Maryland Transit Administration, San Francisco Municipal Railway, and San Diego Trolley, Inc. Law enforcement officers from the 10 systems will attend the TSA Explosives Detection Canine Handler Course beginning in October. During the 10-week course, handlers will be matched with a TSA canine and trained in proper dog handling and search techniques. Upon graduation, the teams will return to their systems for local training, familiarization and certification. The TSA Explosives Detection Canine Team Program is a cooperative partnership that until this deployment has focused primarily on airports. TSA pays to train the canine teams, provides in-depth training for the handler, and partially reimburses the participating law enforcement agency for costs associated with the teams. TSA has deployed over 350 canine teams to airports nationwide since its inception.

Source: [http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198\\_0171b07](http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_0171b07)

11. *September 27, Reuters* — **Airline mergers have bad track record, analysts say.** Airlines should resist the temptation to merge with or acquire rivals during the industry's current crisis, since such deals tend to create more problems than they solve, analysts and experts say. "Combining two airlines historically has almost always raised costs," said Michael E. Levine, who was CEO at now defunct New York Air and an executive vice president at Continental Airlines and Northwest. Past deals may have even helped spur bankruptcies at airlines like US Airways Group Inc. and the former Pan American World Airways. Doug Abbey, a consultant with the Velocity Group in Washington, said. "I'm sure everybody has thought about it but half of the reason that airlines like US Airways find themselves in this position is that previous mergers have not gone entirely well." US Airways, the product of mergers between Allegheny Airlines, Piedmont Airlines and Pacific Southwest Airlines, is now set to be bought by a group



of investors led by Phoenix-based America West Airlines Inc. Diverse labor forces also tend to be a stumbling block in airline mergers, and would be particularly balky in any combination of Delta and Northwest since Northwest's workforce is almost entirely unionized, while only Delta's pilots are.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-26-mergers\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-26-mergers_x.htm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *September 28, Billings Gazette (MT)* — **Montana post office to start testing for anthrax.** At the rate of 35,000 letters an hour, new equipment at the Billings, MT, Mail Processing and Distribution Center sniffs outgoing mail for traces of deadly anthrax. "Every night when we're canceling and processing mail, we'll have the Biohazard Detection System up and operating to make sure the mail is absolutely safe," Big Sky District Post Office Manager Bob Klein told a group of reporters and congressional staffers Tuesday, September 27. He was unveiling a system that has been screening mail from southeastern Montana since Friday, September 23. The Billings plant joined 149 other postal facilities nationwide equipped with what Billings-based Postal Inspector-in-Charge Mark Morse described as cutting-edge technology. Plans call for 282 of the nation's largest mail centers to have the system installed by the end of the year. Billings is the only Montana postal operation designated to receive the equipment, local Postmaster Dennis Kautz said. The center handles about 40 percent of the mail posted in Montana, Klein said, covering a broad area that includes Bozeman, Lewistown, Miles City, and even Yellowstone National Park. Somewhere between 125,000 and 150,000 pieces of mail are shipped out every day.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/09/28/build/local/25-post-office.inc>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *September 28, USAgNet* — **Rita's impact on agriculture now being assessed.** From sugar cane fields in the south to cotton fields in the north, Hurricane Rita devastated Louisiana agriculture, the state's agriculture commissioner said Tuesday, September 27. Winds flattened cane across south central and southwest Louisiana, and rains and storm surge left thousands of acres standing in water below Highway 90, Commissioner Bob Odom said. He said it's only one of many crops facing problems across Louisiana. "Obviously there was a lot of water covering southwest Louisiana below I-10 but wind damage covers almost the entire state," Odom said. Wind caused great damage to pecan orchards, he said. The storm's winds also flattened cotton fields in the north, where only about 40 percent of the crop had been harvested. The remaining 60 percent was knocked to the ground and soaked. "The crop can't be harvested when it's on the ground. It's a major loss," Odom said. In Cameron Parish alone, as many as 4,000 cattle may have been killed by floodwater, and officials believe up to 30,000 cattle in the coastal parishes may be in trouble.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=972&yr=2005>

14. *September 28, Associated Press* — **Vesicular stomatitis discovered in two Idaho horses.** A Montpelier, ID, ranch has been quarantined after the discovery of two horses infected with vesicular stomatitis (VS). It is the first time the contagious virus has been found in Idaho livestock. All the animals at the southeastern Idaho ranch have been quarantined. VS is a disease that affects livestock and causes blister-like lesions similar to those associated with the more serious foot-and-mouth disease. Infected animals get blisters on the tongue, lips, teats, and sometimes on the feet. The blisters can cause an animal to avoid food and water, leading to weight loss, though the disease is rarely fatal. VS may be spread by flies, contact with infected animals or with animal secretions. Both state and officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are investigating. The nearest place that the disease had been identified is in Wyoming, 75 miles away, said Idaho Department of Agriculture spokesperson Wayne Hoffman.  
Source: [http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2005/09/28/news\\_localstate/news\\_local\\_state.9.txt](http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2005/09/28/news_localstate/news_local_state.9.txt)
15. *September 28, Michigan Ag Connection* — **Michigan confirms more deer with encephalitis.** Two more Kent, MI, deer have tested positive for eastern equine encephalitis. That makes a total of four deer from the county that recently have been found with the deadly disease that mostly affects horses. Mosquitoes usually transmit the disease.  
Eastern Equine Encephalitis Fact Sheet: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/eeefact.htm>  
EEE in a Georgia Free-ranging White-tailed Deer: [http://www.uga.edu/scwds/topic\\_index/2001/EEEinaGeorgiaDeer.pdf](http://www.uga.edu/scwds/topic_index/2001/EEEinaGeorgiaDeer.pdf)  
Source: <http://www.michiganagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=563&y r=2005>
16. *September 13, Crop Life Foundation* — **Value of fungicides in U.S. crop production.** Results of a study examining the economic impact of plant diseases on 50 crops grown in the U.S. has been released by the Crop Life Foundation. For every dollar spent on fungicides and their applications, U.S. growers gain \$14.60 in increased production value. If left untreated, yields of most fruit and vegetable crops would decline by 50 to 95 percent. Growers gain \$12.8 billion in increased production value from the control of plant diseases with fungicides. The study was funded by CropLife America and endorsed by 38 grower and commodity groups across the nation. Fungicides are pesticides used to kill fungal and bacterial plant pathogens. The study estimates that American growers spray 108 million pounds of fungicides annually at a cost of \$880 million. Eighteen million acres of cropland are sprayed with fungicides. Parasitic disease pathogens are well established in the nation's orchards and crop fields and reappear every year, discharging trillions of spores that can infect crops. The fungi suck nutrients from the plants, crushing plant cells and causing crops to rot. The study provides descriptions of the 231 diseases that are prevented from developing into epidemics through the spraying of fungicides on 50 crops.  
Report: <http://www.croplifefoundation.org/Documents/Pesticide%20Benefits/Fungicides/Final%20Report/Assembled%20Full%20Report%209-12-05.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.croplifefoundation.org/Documents/Pesticide%20Benefits/Fungicides/Final%20Report/Press%20Release%209-12-05.pdf>

## **Food Sector**

**17. *September 25, Howard Hughes Medical Institute* — **Listeria acquires a new protein.****

Scientists taking a close look at how listeria invades the gut have identified a new culprit — a molecule that normally helps hold the intestinal lining and other sheets of epithelial cells together. *Listeria monocytogenes*, often found in soft cheeses and processed meats, causes an infection that can spread from the intestine to the liver and spleen and ultimately to the brain and placenta. The infection from *Listeria* is fatal in an estimated 20 to 30 percent of cases and can kill fetuses in pregnant women. The study reveals new details of *Listeria*'s invasion strategy. It also provides new insights into how the epithelial cells that line the body and its organs stick together. The cells use sticky molecules called E-cadherins to adhere to each other. Inside the epithelial cell, the tail of E-cadherin binds to a protein called  $\alpha$ -catenin, which recruits other proteins that spur assembly and disassembly of actin filaments and is absolutely critical for strong adherence between epithelial cells. The researchers searched for potential partners of  $\alpha$ -catenin and turned up a new protein known only by its sequence in the human genome database: ARHGAP10.

Source: <http://www.hhmi.org/news/cossart2.html>

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## **Water Sector**

**18. *September 28, New York Times* — **Houston narrowly avoids a water crisis.**** Hundreds of thousands of Houston, TX, area residents and refineries and chemical plants came within two days of running out of water after Hurricane Rita disrupted power to a pumping plant. A rushed repair restored the flow of water on Tuesday, September 27, to a municipal reservoir that was down to half its normal 1.5 billion-gallon capacity by midday. The reservoir was being drained at the rate of up to 400 million gallons a day, and would have gone dry by Thursday, September 29, Mayor Bill White said. How vulnerable the region was to losing its main water supply had been largely overlooked and highlighted a danger that will now become part of future emergency planning. White said the peril was discovered by chance by Judge Robert Eckels of Harris County, who noted that neighboring Baytown had lost water from the Trinity River pumping station on Saturday, September 24, and thought to ask where else the water went. Houston it turns out. The information set off a frenzied effort to find a repair before the faucets dried up to 600,000 people in the area, and 75 petrochemical plants that require 150 million gallons of water a day. The plants produce about 15 percent of the nation's fuel.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/28/national/nationalspecial/2\\_8houston.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/28/national/nationalspecial/2_8houston.html)

**19. *September 27, Sandia National Laboratories* — **New technology soon to be checking for toxins in U.S. water supplies.**** Technology developed at the National Nuclear Security Administration's Sandia National Laboratories is expected to soon be checking for toxins and harmful bacteria in U.S. water supplies. The technology is based on the microChemLab — a hand-held "chemistry laboratory." Complete with the microChemLab, electronics, and sample collector, the devices weigh about 25 pounds and fit into a box the size of a small suitcase. The units are completely portable. "Our goal is to place these sensors within utility water systems and use them to quickly determine if the water contains harmful bacteria and toxins," says



Wayne Einfeld, who heads the Sensor Development Focus Area within Sandia's Water Initiative. "This on-site monitoring approach would enhance current utility monitoring systems that require water samples to be sent to laboratories for analysis, which sometimes takes days for results." The liquid microChemLab is currently being tested at the Contra Costa, CA, Water District. Specifically, the team is testing to determine the steps necessary to identify toxins in drinking water, as well as expanding its capabilities as an autonomous monitor. The device is presently collecting and analyzing a water sample every 30 minutes and reporting results via a real-time data link to researchers at Sandia.

Source: <http://www.sandia.gov/news-center/news-releases/2005/elect-s-emi-sensors/water.html>

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## **Public Health Sector**

20. *September 28, International Herald Tribune* — **Widespread dengue fever in Asia.** At least 127,000 people in Asia have been infected by dengue so far this year from eastern India to Indonesia and the Philippines, with at least 990 deaths. The country worst affected has been Indonesia with more than 48,000 cases and over 600 deaths. "Dengue is now one of the most important tropical diseases," said Duane Gubler, Director of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Hawaii. "While it doesn't kill that many people, it has tremendous economic and social impact." A member of the same family of viruses that causes West Nile virus, Japanese encephalitis, and yellow fever, dengue fever is a potentially fatal disease for which there is no vaccine or treatment despite estimates that it infects at least 50 million people a year. The two species of mosquitoes that carry dengue, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, can breed in minuscule pools of fresh water in homes and gardens. If a female mosquito bites a person already infected with dengue, it can pass the virus on to the next person it bites. If that person then flies to another country with *Aedes* mosquitoes, the person can unknowingly spread the virus even further.

Dengue Fever information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/dengue/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/09/28/news/fever.php>

21. *September 28, Reuters* — **China sets blueprint for fighting flu pandemic.** China announced color-coded emergency measures on Wednesday, September 28, to avert or handle an influenza pandemic. The Health Ministry is to set up a national anti-influenza leadership group and stockpile vaccines. Four levels of alert — blue, yellow, orange and red — will indicate the seriousness of the outbreak. "The most serious level, red, will be announced in case of a consistent and rapid spread of new sub-type flu virus among the people, or if the World Health Organization (WHO) announces the outbreak of a flu pandemic," the ministry said. Experts say southern China could be ground zero for such a pandemic because many there live in close proximity to livestock, allowing animal diseases such as bird flu to jump to humans. "If a person is infected with a human influenza and also contracts avian influenza ... the two kinds of influenza could mix and re-assort themselves into a more dangerous strain that could cause easy human-to-human transmission," Aphaluck Bhatiasavi, a WHO spokesperson, told Reuters. "And that would be the pandemic." In the plan, the Health Ministry also pledges to compile weekly reports analyzing information from the nationwide influenza monitoring system and to share data with the WHO.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2005-09-28T080242Z\\_01\\_FLE828914\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-CHINA.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2005-09-28T080242Z_01_FLE828914_RTRUKOC_0_US-CHINA.xml)

22. *September 28, Agence France–Presse* — **At least 54 people suspected of contracting bird flu in Indonesia.** At least 54 people were being treated for suspected bird flu in Indonesia, where the disease has already claimed six lives. Blood and mucus samples from the patients were being tested locally and any results indicating bird flu will be sent to World Health Organization (WHO) laboratories in Hong Kong for confirmation. A health ministry official said Wednesday, September 28, that a shipment of some 20,000 doses of Tamiflu, an anti-viral medication that can stop flu if administered promptly, will arrive in the country on Friday, September 30. Six Indonesians have died of bird flu, bringing to 65 the number of people in Southeast Asia known to have been killed by the H5N1 strain of the virus since 2003. Vietnam has recorded 43 deaths, Thailand 12, and Cambodia four. The WHO fears H5N1 will mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious and lethal to millions in a global pandemic.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050928/hl\\_afp/healthfluindonesia\\_050928131307;\\_ylt=AkI.zFzMKXgFz1K4v4SP0kyJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050928/hl_afp/healthfluindonesia_050928131307;_ylt=AkI.zFzMKXgFz1K4v4SP0kyJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

23. *September 28, Agence France–Presse* — **Flu killed up to 20,000 people in Germany in past year.** A particularly virulent strain of flu killed 15,000 to 20,000 people in Germany in the last year, the Robert Koch public health institute said. Brunhilde Schweiger of the Berlin, Germany, based institute told reporters that those most at risk including the elderly and those with chronic illnesses should be vaccinated between September and October to be protected this winter. Flu kills an average 5,000 to 8,000 people every year while another 20,000 victims need to be hospitalized, according to the institute's influenza prevention center. But in the autumn and winter of 2004 to 2005 between 22,000 and 32,000 people were hospitalized in Germany with flu, it said.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050927/hl\\_afp/germanyhealthflu\\_050927151955;\\_ylt=AlwXmJ88nAHCxQ2stXwAlWWJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050927/hl_afp/germanyhealthflu_050927151955;_ylt=AlwXmJ88nAHCxQ2stXwAlWWJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

24. *September 28, San Francisco Chronicle (CA)* — **U.S. preparing for bird flu to arrive from Asia.** The strain of bird flu known as H5N1 has yet to mutate into a form that can be transmitted easily among humans, but it already poses a threat to people in Asian nations who live in close proximity to ducks and chickens. During the summer, the virus was apparently carried by migrating birds from China and Southeast Asia to Kazakhstan and Siberia, in the Russian Federation, where it subsequently infected domestic chicken flocks. The more entrenched the virus becomes in the world's bird population, experts believe, the greater the chances H5N1 will eventually mutate into a human disease. At a meeting with health leaders from North and South America on Tuesday, September 27, World Health Organization Director-General Lee Jong-wook declared that a pandemic was virtually inevitable. At the University of California, Davis Medical Center, doctors and bird veterinarians outlined efforts under way in California to monitor the dangerous H5N1 strain. The focus is currently on Alaska, a junction where birds from the East Asia/Australian flyway — encompassing areas infected with H5N1 — can make a left turn and fly south along the Pacific Americas Flyway, which runs along the Pacific Coast, through California, all the way to the southern extreme of

Argentina.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/09/28/BAGGLEUROII.DTL>

25. *September 27, Hawke* — **New Zealand health experts to test bird-flu plan.** Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, health professionals will meet next month to rehearse their response to a deadly bird flu outbreak. Health providers, emergency services and government departments will practice their synchronized response to a pandemic over a series of planning exercises. The Hawke's Bay district health board, along with Physician Hospital Organizations, Royston Hospital, rest homes, the police, ambulance services and Work and Income will tackle surprise scenarios thrown at them to discover if their planned response is enough to steer the region through a bird flu pandemic. The agencies involved will respond to mock scenarios to test if the communication links between health officials are prepared to handle the health crisis. The gaps in the current District Health Board pandemic plan will be identified. Health officials agree it's not a case of "if" bird flu gets to New Zealand, but "when".

Source: <http://www.hbtoday.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3654341&thetopic=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubsection=>

26. *September 27, Sun Herald (MS)* — **Portable hospitals offer assistance to doctors, patients during rebuilding.** A colorful nest of 12 Quonset hut-shaped tents designed in Nevada for bioterrorism preparedness are open in Gulfport, MS, as a portable hospital, part of the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina's aftermath needs. Nevada One, as it's called, is operated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and provides free medical treatment for the general public. Patients need only provide a picture ID. Simple needs like tetanus shots, blood pressure medication, antibiotics, insulin, and wound checks are common, but the hospital also provides primary care, urgent care, and counseling for the general public. Cmdr. Allen Dobbs of the U.S. Public Health Service said the site also serves as a special needs shelter for folks who have a disabling medical condition or depend on medical equipment, such as oxygen. The interconnected tents are configured to treat up to 100 bed patients. There are ventilators, patient monitors, an ambulance entrance, and administrative offices. Security fencing is erected and the NIH's police force works round the clock. Walk-ins are checked with a metal detector. Nevada One is designed to withstand winds up to 65 mph, as well as snow and sandstorms, and to stay up for the duration of any event, which can be as long as 24 months.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/living/12753833.ht m>

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## **Government Sector**

27. *September 28, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-1053T: Hurricane Katrina: Providing Oversight of the Nation's Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities (Testimony).** Hurricane Katrina will have an enormous impact on people and the economy of the United States. The hurricane affected over a half million people located in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and has resulted in one of the largest natural disaster relief and recovery operations in United States history. Hurricane Katrina also resulted in environmental challenges, such as water and sediment contamination from toxic materials released into the floodwaters. In addition, our nation's energy infrastructure was hard hit; it affected 21 refineries. In terms of telecommunications, Hurricane Katrina knocked out radio and television

stations, more than three million customer phone lines, and more than a thousand cell phone sites. The Government Accountability Office prepared this testimony to highlight past work on government programs related to Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters, and to provide information on plans and coordination among the accountability community. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has developed a plan to coordinate Katrina-related oversight activities with the OIGs of 12 other departments and agencies, focusing on waste, fraud, and abuse. GAO plans to provide the Congress with more strategic evaluations to assess the federal, state, local, and private sector preparedness, response and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Katrina.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d051053thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-1053T>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

28. *September 28, ANSA News (Italy)* — **Rome faces simulated terror.** A mock suicide bomber at the Coliseum and a simulated explosion in the deepest part of the underground train system will be featured in a major anti-terrorism drill in Rome, Italy, next week. The drill will take place on Monday, October 3, with three "attacks" staged to test the responsiveness and efficiency of Italian emergency services in the event of a real terrorist strike. Rome's day of simulated terror will begin at Monday morning when a "suicide bomber" — a life-size dummy stuffed with firecrackers — will blow himself up among a crowd of tourists near the Coliseum. Ten minutes later, a "bomb" will go off in a train at the underground station of La Repubblica, which is the deepest point of Rome's two-line tube system. A simultaneous attack will take place near the city's famed Piazza Navona, where an abandoned rucksack will explode. The anti-terrorism drills, the biggest ever held in Italy, were ordered by Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu after the July terrorist attacks in London. Similar drills will eventually be held in Naples and Turin.

Source: [http://ansa.it/main/notizie/awnplus/english/news/2005-09-28\\_1407534.html](http://ansa.it/main/notizie/awnplus/english/news/2005-09-28_1407534.html)

29. *September 28, Newsday (NY)* — **Utility and government officials unveil series of initiatives to better prepare for a major hurricane in New York.** On the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Gloria Tuesday, September 27, utility and government officials from Nassau and Suffolk, NY, gathered to respond to the lessons of the two storms that devastated the Gulf Coast this summer. After the two-hour session, the officials announced they were proceeding with four initiatives. They will review their emergency plans over the next two weeks and assemble a list of possible disasters that might have to be handled, and then look for deficiencies to address. They also will begin to assemble a comprehensive list of facilities and residences whose occupants might need help in evacuating. They will beef up communication between emergency responders by purchasing additional satellite phones. And next June they will hold a large hurricane drill involving the public.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liplan284445785sep28.0.1480973.story?coll=ny-linews-headlines>

30. *September 26, Associated Press* — **National Guard unit leads Hawaii's efforts against bioterrorism.** Twice a week in the middle of Diamond Head crater, HI, a team of men don red and blue astronaut-like suits and practice detecting biological and chemical agents such as

anthrax or the deadly nerve gas sarin. The 22-man Hawaii National Guard team is at the forefront of the state's effort to protect the islands against terrorist attacks of the worst variety. Hawaii is one of only 12 states where National Guard soldiers are trained and equipped to decontaminate people exposed to chemical, biological or nuclear agents. Experts say the unit, together with efforts to stay up-to-date with intelligence on terrorist threats, is among the leading reasons why the state is prepared to cope with a such an emergency. The Diamond Head-based 93rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team is one of 55 such units that have been set up or are being set up around the nation. All 50 states and the U.S. territories, including Guam and Puerto Rico, will eventually have their own teams in place. Having a unit in the islands enables experts to swiftly identify potentially dangerous substances and start treating those exposed without having to wait for help to arrive from the mainland.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2005/09/26/news/story4.html>

31. *September 26, Federal Computer Weekly* — **Air Force installs mass warning system.** The Air Force has installed a mass notification system at the Air Force's Air Education Training Command site at Vance Air Force Base, OK. The system allows commanders to issue threat warnings — related to weather or terrorism, for example — to all computers connected to the base's networks via a pop-up window and an audio alarm. These alerts are also being installed at the command's headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, TX. Vance Air Force Base has already integrated the system with its outdoor sirens. The base can now send alerts via the siren and the network with a single push of a button.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article90888-09-26-05-Web>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

32. *September 28, New York Times* — **Tax breaks for cybersecurity firms?** Congress may start offering tax breaks to companies that adopt good cybersecurity standards. Dan Lungren, chair of the U.S. House of Representatives cybersecurity subcommittee, is working on an "overall view of ways we can work with the private sector" to develop cybersecurity tools, including the possibility of creating an incentive-based system. Andy Purdy, acting director of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity Division, said in a speech that his agency is also working closely with the private sector to equip itself for responding to cyberattacks.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/cnet/CNET\\_2100-7348\\_3-5884149.html](http://www.nytimes.com/cnet/CNET_2100-7348_3-5884149.html)

33. *September 27, Silicon.com* — **VoIP wiretapping rules to be considered.** The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) has developed a 59-page decision for Broadband providers and Internet phone services. They now have until spring 2007 to follow a new and complex set of rules designed to make it easier for police to seek wiretaps. This includes that any voice over IP, or VoIP, provider linking with the public telephone network must be wiretap-ready.

Source: <http://management.silicon.com/government/0,39024677,39152744,.00.htm>

34. *September 27, Government Technology* — **Virginia governor's 2005 technology award**



**winners announced.** Four organizations were honored as winners of The 2005 Governor's Technology Awards were awarded to four organizations in Virginia. The awards were presented to the Secretary of Technology Eugene Huang presented Fairfax County with the e-Government award, Luna Innovations of Blacksburg with the Entrepreneur award, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy with the Innovative Technology award, and the Virginia Department of Taxation with the Public-Private Partnership award. Entrants in this year's competition included local school systems, local governments, state agencies, universities, and private business.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=96755>

35. *September 26, Cisco* — **Cisco Security Advisory: Cisco IOS firewall authentication proxy for FTP and telnet sessions buffer overflow.** The Cisco IOS Firewall Authentication Proxy for FTP and/or Telnet Sessions feature in specific versions of Cisco IOS software is vulnerable to a remotely exploitable buffer overflow condition. The vulnerability is in the Cisco IOS Firewall Authentication Proxy feature which allows network administrators to apply specific security policies on a per user basis. Cisco IOS Software is vulnerable to a Denial of Service (DoS) and potentially an arbitrary code execution attack when processing the user authentication credentials from an Authentication Proxy Telnet/FTP session. To exploit this vulnerability an attacker must first complete a TCP connection to the IOS device running affected software and receive an auth-proxy authentication prompt.

Source: [http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20050907-auth\\_proxy.shtml](http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20050907-auth_proxy.shtml)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

#### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of public exploit code for a buffer overflow vulnerability in Mozilla products, including the Mozilla Suite, and Mozilla Firefox. The vulnerability exists in the way Mozilla products handle URIs containing certain IDN encoded hostnames. A remote attacker who is able to convince a user to view a specially crafted HTML document may be able to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running the vulnerable application.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

\* VU#573857 – Mozilla-based browsers contain a buffer overflow in handling URIs containing a malformed IDN hostname

US-CERT encourages Mozilla users to upgrade to version 1.0.7 and Mozilla Suite users to upgrade to version 1.7.12 as soon as possible.

US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to

recent events such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. For more information please refer to:

<http://www.us-cert.gov/current/#kat>

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice. <http://www.fema.gov/>

#### **Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 3800 (---), 40000 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn), 2234 (directplay), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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